

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bruce H. HANSON et al.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Appln. No. : 10/630,754

Examiner: Jonathan Miller

Filed : July 31, 2003

Confirmation No.: 2023

For : SEQUENCING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with Applicants duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 31, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the following documents that were previously cited in the IDS dated July 31, 2003.

(1) DE 197 09 232 A1, dated November 6, 1997. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 5,901,855, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(2) DE 43 02 231 C2, dated August 10, 1995. Applicants note that U.S. 5,421,464, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document. Applicants submit that this provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(3) DE 196 25 007 A1, dated January 2, 1998. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's

convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 6,703,574 is a family member of the above-noted document.

(4) DE 196 29 125 A1, dated January 29, 1998. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(5) DE 196 47 973 C1, dated September 25, 1997. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 6,279,750, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(6) EP 0 533 536 B1, dated March 6, 1996. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 5,353,938, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(7) EP 0 761 322 A1, dated March 12, 1997. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 6,126,017, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(8) DE 1 160 225, dated December 27, 1963. Attached hereto is a copy of GB 944,747, dated December 18, 1963, which is a family member of the above-noted document. Applicants submit that this provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(9) DE 1 574 564, dated November 25, 1971. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is: "Arrangement for automatic letter distribution". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of the abstract of this document is: "In the automatic letter-distribution technology, machines

were originally used that distributed into several hundred directions in one distribution step. As these machines with several hundred compartments were very complex in terms of construction, and economic considerations speak against a single distribution step, automatic distribution systems with two distribution steps, namely a pre-distribution and a final distribution, were developed in the past few years". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(10) DE 27 42 802, dated April 5, 1979. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is "Distribution System". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of the claim of this document is: "Distribution system for the distribution of flat objects provided with destination characteristics, e.g., letters, with two or more distribution machines or distribution-machine parts that feature gates and compartments for each conveyor section, and to which gates and compartments the unsorted objects are respectively fed in a uniform manner, whereby each distribution machine completely distributes the objects assigned to its compartments and transfers the objects associated with the other distribution machine to that machine, characterized in that the objects to be respectively distributed in one of the other distribution machines are separated by the transferring distribution machine before its entrance and are inserted into the conveyor section forming the entrance of the respectively other distribution machine". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(11) DE 1 574 092, dated March 13, 1971. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is: "Letter-sorting system". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of claim 1 of this document is: "Sorting system for flat objects, e.g., letters or other postal material, with one input and several output stations and a conveyance system between input and output stations, as well as a scanning and release unit at the stations, which release the sorted-out objects according to their destination information to that destination, characterized in that the sorting takes place in several sorting steps and that storage units are provided that receive the objects not sorted out after a sorting step until the beginning of the next sorting step". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to

37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 3,452,509 is a family member of the above-noted document.

(12) DE 24 43 418, dated March 18, 1976. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is: "Method and apparatus for the sorting of objects with machine-readable differentiating features". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of claim 1 of this document is: "Method for the sorting of objects with machine-readable differentiating features, e.g., an accordingly attached code character, in which these objects are guided to an apparatus in which the differentiating features or characteristics are guided to machine-reading, e.g., electronic-optical devices, and the result of the reading is transformed into electronic signals that are used for controlling a conveyance path for transporting the individual objects to a corresponding exit, from where they are guided to a further treatment, characterized in that the code characters comprise several binary characters and the objects to be sorted are fed one after the other to one or more reading devices (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) or several times to a single reading device until each object has arrived at the exit assigned to a characteristic (1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b)". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(13) DE 27 54 469, dated July 5, 1979. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is: "Device and method for the optimum automatic coding and sorting of letters at the post office with the aid of zip codes". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of claim 1 of this document is: "Device for the optimum coding of the first two digits of the zip codes according to frequency in such a manner that – when scanning the first two digits of the zip code – one relay switches another relay that is programmed such that it attaches an optimum binary code to the letter at a certain location". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(14) DE 29 08 500, dated September 18, 1980. Applicants submit that an English-language translation of the title of this document is: "Apparatus and method and for total automatic letter distribution at the post office by means of a single distribution-

machine type". Applicants further submit that an English-language translation of the claim of this document is: "Arrangement and method characterized in that the total automatic letter distribution at the post office can be carried out with a single type of sorting machine, namely with a sorting machine with 4 distribution compartments = 2 bit, 3 reading heads and 3 distribution gates and with the lowest expenditure in terms of machinery". Applicants submit that this constitutes a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(15) DE 197 09 232 A1, dated November 6, 1997. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 5,901,855, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(16) EP 0 916 412 B1, dated March 12, 2003. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for this document, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. 6,107,588, which was cited in the IDS of July 31, 2003, is a family member of the above-noted document.

(17) EP 0 428 416 A1, dated May 22, 1991. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for EP 0 428 416, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

(18) EP 0 428 416 B1, dated May 22, 1991. Attached hereto is an English-language abstract for EP 0 428 416, which, Applicants submit, provides a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

A completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing the above-noted documents is being provided. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next Official communication.

Copies of documents (1) – (18) are not enclosed herewith because copies of these documents were previously submitted with the IDS of July 31, 2003. However, copies of the available English-language abstracts of the documents and of GB 944,747 are being submitted herewith. Moreover, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. If any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

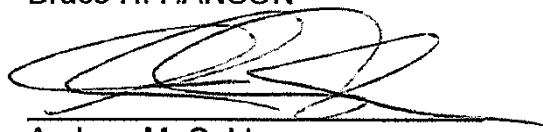
Applicants note that while this Supplemental IDS is being filed after the time period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), Applicants are only submitting inadvertently omitted content of documents that were already cited in the previous IDS of July 31, 2003. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f), Applicants should be granted additional time to enable full compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 because Applicants made a *bona fide* attempt to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 in the IDS submitted on July 31, 2003, but only inadvertently omitted part of the required content.

However, should the Office refuse to grant additional time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f), Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which Applicants are aware.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce H. HANSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew M. Calderon
Reg. No. 38,093

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P26872Application No.
10/630,754INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)Applicant
Bruce H. HANSON, et al.Filing Date
July 31, 2003Group
3653

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6	7	0	3	5	7	4	03-09-04	Kecher et al.			
		3	4	5	2	5	0	9	07-01-69	Hauer			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	1	9	7	0	9	2	3	2	11-06-97	GERMANY				
		4	3	0	2	2	3	1	08-10-95	GERMANY				
	1	9	6	2	5	0	0	7	01-02-98	GERMANY				
	1	9	6	2	9	1	2	5	01-29-98	GERMANY				
	1	9	6	4	7	9	7	3	09-25-97	GERMANY				
		0	5	3	3	5	3	6	03-06-96	E.P.O.				
		0	7	6	1	3	2	2	03-12-97	E.P.O.				
		1	1	6	0	2	2	5	12-27-63	GERMANY				
		1	5	7	4	5	6	4	11-25-71	GERMANY				
		2	7	4	2	8	0	2	04-05-79	GERMANY				
		1	5	7	4	0	9	2	03-13-71	GERMANY				
		2	4	4	3	4	1	8	03-18-76	GERMANY				
		2	7	5	4	4	6	9	07-05-79	GERMANY				
		2	9	0	8	5	0	0	09-18-80	GERMANY				
	1	9	7	0	9	2	3	2	11-06-97	GERMANY				
		0	9	1	6	4	1	2	03-12-03	E.P.O.				
		0	4	2	8	4	1	6	05-22-91	E.P.O.				
		0	9	4	4	7	4	7	12-18-63	G.B.				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.